HEBDEN BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

May. 1919.

To the members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The L.G.B. suggest that all Annual reports for 1918 should be brief, giving the vital statistics so that the records may be continuous, together with an account of any ~~see~~ outbreak of disease, and also any prominent sanitary events of the year.

The figures given by the L.G.B. for calculating the Death-rate is 6089 and is an estimate of the Civil population It includes all non-civilian males whether serving at home or abroad.

The figure for calculating the Birth-rate is 6822 and includes all the elements of the population contributing to the Birth and marriage rates. It consists therefore of the Death-rate figure or civil population plus all non-civilians whether serving at home or abroad.

Vital Statistics.

These are as follows, and for purposes of comparison I append similar figures for the years 1915, 1916, and 1917.

	1918.	1917.	1916.	1915.
Birth-rate.	9.0	10.0	10.9	12.3
Death-rate.	19.0	15.0	15.0	14.9
Infant Mortality.	112.9	69.4	63.3	102.2
Lymotic-rate.	.1	Nil.	1.2	.2
Tuberculous-rate.	1.9	2.2	1.5	1.6
Respiratory-rate.	2.9	2.7	1.5	3.2
Cancer-rate.	1.8	1.2	1.6	.8

Births.

The total number of Births registered was 62 (33 males and 29 females) yielding a rate of 9.0 per 1000. Two of these births were illegitimate. In the four preceeding years the number of births was 72-79,88-104. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1918 was 1717. These figures show the local Birth-rate to be very much below the general Birth-rate of the Country.

Deaths.

The Deaths recorded number 116. (52 males and 64 females) yielding a rate of 19.0 per 1000. In the four preceeding years thw number of deaths were 93, 100, 107, and 78. This increase, in a small population, ism considerable. Itis, I think, wholly due to the epidemic of Influenza which occured in November. The Death-rate for England and Wales for 1918 was 17.6. The following is a list of the causes of Death.

	Males	Females
Measles.	1	0.
Influenza.	5.	5.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	7.	3.
Tub. disease other than Pulmon.	.	2.
Cancer.	3.	8.
Meningitis.	.	1.
Organic Heart Disease.	9.	12.
Bronchitis.	1.	4.
Pneumonia (all forms).	6.	5.

May. 1919.

To the members of the Health Committee.

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The L.G.B. suggest that all Annual reports for 1918 should be brief, giving the vital statistics so that the records may be continuous, together with an account of any out-break of disease, and also any prominent sanitary events of the year.

The figures given by the L.G.B. for calculating the death-rate is 6089 and is an estimate of the Civil population It includes all non-civilian males whether serving at home or abroad.

The figure for calculating the Birth-rate is 6822 and includes all the elements of the population contributing to the Birth and marriage rates. It consists there-fore of the Death-rate figure or civil population plus all non-civilians whether serving at home or abroad.

Vital Statistics.

These are as follows, and for purposes of comparison I append similar figures for the years 1918, 1916, and 1917.

	1918.	1917.	1916.	1915.
Birth-rate.	9.6	10.0	10.3	18.3
Death-rate.	19.0	18.0	14.9	
Infant Mortality.	112.9	69.4	63.3	102.2
Zymotic-rate.	.1	Nil.	1.2	.2
Tuberculous-rate.	1.3	2.2	1.5	1.6
Respiratory-rate.	2.9	3.7	1.5	3.2
Cancer-rate.	1.8	1.3	1.6	.8

Births.

The total number of Births registered was 82 (38 males and 39 females) yielding a rate of 9.0 per 1000. Two of these births were illegitimate. In the four preceding years the number of birthe was 72-79, 88-104. The birth-rate for Mngland and Wales for 1918 was 1717. These figures show the local Birth-rate to be very much below the general Birth-rate of the Country.

Deaths.

The Deaths recorded number 116. (52 males and 64 females) yielding a rate of 19.0 per 1000. In the four preceding year s the number of deaths were 83, 100, 107, and 78. This increase, in a small population, is considerable. Ithe, I think, wholly due to the epidemic of Influenza which occured in November. The Death-rate for Mngland and Wales for 1918 was 17.8. The following is a list of the causes of Death.

	Males	Females
Measles.	1	0.
Influenza.	5.	5.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	7.	3.
Tub. disease other than Pulmon.	.	2.
Cancer.	3.	8.
Meningitis.	.	1.
Organic Heart Disease.	9.	12.
Bronchitis.	1.	4.
Pneumonia (all forms).	6.	5.

Deaths. continued.

	Males	Females.
Other Respiratory Diseases.	1.	1.
Brights Disease.	8.	5.
Congenital Debility.	1.	-
Voilence apart from Suicide.	2.	-
Other defined diseases.	8.	16.
Appendicitis.	-	1.

Infectous Diseases.

The following notifications were received during the year.

Scarlet Fever.	1.	
Diphtheria.	1.	
Erysipelas.	1.	
Acute Polio. Myelitis.	1.	
Measles.	164.	
Tuberculosis.	17.	)8 Pulmonary.
		)9 other than Pulmonary.

Measles.

146 cases were notified (~~1~~ 126 by medical men and 20 by parents or Guardians.) The first notification was on 9th. February and the last, received by me, was on the seventh July. The disease was generally of a mild nature and only one death resulted.

Children aged from 3 to 6 were the chief sufferers. On the 29th April, 50 per cent of the Infants attending the Central School were absent directly or indirectly from Measles, and more than 50 per cent at the Stubbing School. In consequence of this, it was decided that the two above mentioned Schools should be closed for 3 weeks. The result of the closure was very satisfactory, and from then onwards, the epidemic seemed to subside rapidly. The notification of Measles is undoubtedly beneficial, but it is so infectious that niether isolation in the home nor Hospital isolation offers much chance of success in checking the spread of the disease, and there is also the still prevalent fallacy among some parents that it is best to put children together and let them get over what they consider a necessray ailment of choldhood as soon as possible

The older the child, the less incidence of attack, therefore it is obviously to the advantage of all to shielf th children from exposure to infection.

Whooping Cough.

This disease appeared at the Central School early in August and continued until the end of September. In October and November Stubbing School was affected, and some few cases appeared at the Mythholm School in November. It was mild in character, and in none of the Schools named, was any action by the Health Authorities taken or requred.

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Deaths. continued.

	Males.	Females.
Other Respiratory Diseases.	1.	1.
Bright's Disease.	8.	5.
Congenital Debility.	1.	-
Violence apart from Suicide.	2.	-
Other defined disease.	8-12.	8
	8.	16.
Appendicitis.	-	1.

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This disease appeared at the Central School early in August and continued until the end of September. In October and November Stubbing School was affected, and some few cases appeared at the Wyndham School in November. It was mild in character, and in none of the Schools named, was any action by the Health Authorities taken or required.

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Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis was the cause of seven deaths of males and three of females. In addition, two other deaths occured in females, from Tuberculosis other han Pulmonary. Seventeen notifications were received, eight of Pulmohary Tuberculosis and nine of Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary. Five of the eight cases of Pulmonnary Tuberculosis notified during the year, died. With the better housing conditions that one hopes will prevail in the near future, the number of persons attacked by this disease ought to much diminish. In my opinion, Sanatorium accommodation, the utility of which is not in doubt, should be much increased, and Dispensaries, if they are to be of any value, should be multiplied. People suffering seveely from Tuberculosis will not and cannot attend be expected to travel eight or ten miles once a week to visit these centres, particularly in bad weather, and in short dark days. Intimately connected with Tuberculosis is the question of Tuberculosis in Animals slaughtered for human food. It is now, I think, generally agreed that each District should have a public abattoir, and all meat should be passed by a competent Inspector before distribution.

Influenza.

Two distinct epidemics of Influenza occurred during the year. [illegible] July began at the Western end of the District, and was imported from the adjoining Area. It attacked principally people of Adult age, and shewed itself as a sharp febrile attack, lasting only a couply of days. In very few instances were there any Sequela, and there was no mortality. The second epidemic was a very severe one, in the number of people attacked, in severity, and complications. It commenced in the first week of the month of November, and lasted till the end of the first week in December. In the last three weeks of December cases still occurred but not in epidemic form. It was generally complicated with Lung Trouble, and from personal observation it appeared to me that middle agred and elderly people were able to combat both Influenza and its complications more successfully than the younger members of the population. Five deaths were ascribed directly to the disease in Novemberrand December, three occurring at the age period of 15 to 25. One between 25 to 45, and one between 45 to 65. During the same period eight deaths were registered as due to Pneumonia, doubtless in most instances a Sequela of Influenza. The attendance at the Council Schools in the July epidemic was not sufficiently affected to warrant closure, but in the epidemic of November, the attendances were below 50 per cent, and at the same time most of the teaching staff were on the sick list with the complaint, and closure was resorted to at the three Schools from 18th November to 9th December. The Managers of the various Sunday Schools also, on request, voluntarily closed down for the same period. Public meetings, Concerts etc were postponed, and children under 14 years of age were excluded from Cinemas and all other places of entertainment. Advice leaflets were distributed throughout the District. I fear more scientific knowledge of the disease will be required before its prevention and cure can be successfully undertaken. During its worst period, there was considerable difficulty in arranging for the disposal of fatal cases, owing to the great shortness of all kinds of labour. In one case the funeral was delayed a full week, and I understand the remains were not closed down all the time. This is very insanitary, particularly in small houses, and I would strongly advice the removal of the remains, either for burial, or preferably cremation, as early as possible, after death. When delay is unavoidable, the coffin lid should be securely fastened

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down on the first signs of decomposition.

Infant Mortality.

Seven deaths occured in children under 1 year, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 112.9 per 1000 as against five in the previous year with a rate of 69.4 This is an increase but with such small numbers involved no unsatisfactory conclusions should be drawn from these figures. I am ~~xxxxx~~ sure children are well cared for in this District.

Schools.

As mentioned in a previous paragraph, the Schools were closed for Measles in Spring, and for influenza in the late Autumn. Whooping Cough and Chickenpox were also present in the Autumn months to some extent.

Sanitation.

All sanitary matters have been held in abeyance during the year and there is nothing of any consequence to report. There is great need of a public convenience at the Tram Terminus in New Road. This should be one of the first matters undertaken by the Council.

Housing.

Twenty Houses were inspected under Section 17 of the 1909 Act making a total of 1700 inspections out of 1847 inhabited houses in the District. The housing question has come to the front very prominently since the end of the War and there is a great and pressing need for increased cottage property.

Weather Report.

	1918.	1917.	1916.
Mean Temperature.	47.09.	45.54	45.95
Rainfall.	54.82	43.59	52.01

I am, Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GARNETT G. LAWSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

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Infant Mortality.

Seven deaths occured in children under 1 year, giving an Infant Mortality rate of 118.9 per 1000 as against five in the previous year with a rate of 89.4 This is an increase but with such small numbers involved no unsatisfactory conclusions should be drawn from these figures. Im mmmmm ants children are well cared for in this District.

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Weather Report.

	1918.	1917.	1916.
Mean Temperature.	47.09.	48.84	46.88
Rainfall.	34.82	43.38	32.01

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Your obedient Servant,

GARNETT O. JAMESON.

Medical Officer of Health